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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: GABRIEL & POLZIN ATT. DOCKET: 870-003-123  
SERIAL NO.: 09/ \_\_\_\_\_ = § 371 of PCT/EP98/07230  
FILED: 4 MAY 2000 (HEREWITH)  
TITLE: NEEDLE ARRANGEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS MAY 4, 2000  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants wish to bring the references, listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith, to the attention of the Examiner. The relevance of the references is that they were cited in the International Search Report re PCT/EP98/07230 dated 29 MAR. 1999 and/or in a German search report of 19 MAR. 1998 re German application 297 20 513.7 (priority document for the PCT), copies of each of which are enclosed herewith. Also enclosed is a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409). That report is being submitted in German since the European Patent

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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Ellen C. LaPak

Office is translating this report and WIPO will send the translation directly to the United States Patent & Trademark Office. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of all known US equivalent patents are also enclosed herewith; see cross references in right column of Form PTO-1449.

**This submission complies with MPEP § 609.**

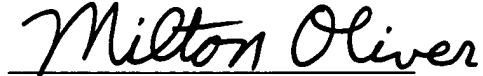
**REMARKS**

No representation is made that more pertinent, although presently unknown, art does not exist. It is anticipated that the Examiner will conduct a thorough search of the prior art and will carefully consider the documents submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to **return an initialled copy** of form PTO-1449, to confirm that the references have been considered.

Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited. No fee is believed required; if any is required, it may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,



Milton Oliver (# 28,333)  
Attorney for Applicants  
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS  
& ADOLPHSON, LLP  
755 Main Street  
P.O. BOX 224  
MONROE, CT 06468-0224  
Tel. (203) 261-1234  
Fax (203) 261-5676

Attachments:

- (1) German search report re DE 297 20 513.7 of 19 MAR. 1998
- (2) International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210)
- (3) Transmittal & International Preliminary Examination Report (Forms PCT/IPEA/416 & /409)
- (4) PTO-1449 (2 sheets) & references cited